BOOK NOTICE

RAFAËL GOVAERTS, PAUL WILKIN, AND RICHARD M.K. SAUNDERS. 2007. **World Checklist of Dioscoreales: Yams and Their Allies.** (ISBN 978-1-84246-200-3, pbk.). Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 3AB, United Kingdom. (**Orders:** www.kewbooks.com, publishing@kew.org). \$50.00, 65 pp., 9" × 6".

Contents:

Introduction

How to use the Checklist

Structure

Names

Acceptance of taxa

Geographical distribution

Life-forms

Abbreviations

References

Acknowledgments

Burmanniaceae

Dioscoreaceae

Nartheciaceae

From the publishers.—"Dioscoreales are a small but systematically and economically significant order of monocotyledons. The most diverse and important member is the yam genus, Dioscorea L., a source of dietary starch at macroeconomic to rural community levels. Other species of Dioscorea provided the chemical basis of corticosteroid drugs and oral contraceptives. Ally families comprise the unusual, largely achlorophyllous (heteromycotrophic) Burmanniaceae and the relatively unspecialised Nartheciaceae...The book lists all names ever published; lists all accepted species with their geographical distribution; indicates full synonymy, provides a single source guide to the correct names of all yams and their allies; and provides an invaluable reference for applied yam researchers, e.g., pathologists, geneticists, plant breeders, conservationists, foresters, ethnobotanists, ethnoarchaeologists and anthropologists."